

Message Text

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INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 INR-10 IO-13 JUSE-00 NSAE-00
CTME-00 SNM-05 TRSE-00 ICA-11 NSC-05 OES-09
OMB-01 AGRE-00 AID-05 NASA-01 /075 W
-----070040 220034Z /15

P 212350Z AUG 78
FM AMEMBASSY MEXICO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2170
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DEAHQS FOR ENOL, EN, IG

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: SNAR/MEX
SUBJECT: GOM ERADICATION AND ENFORCEMENT ACTIVITY REPORT,
AUGUST 7-13, 1978, AND FIELD OPERATIONS THROUGH 08/18/78

1. GOM ERADICATION AND ENFORCEMENT STATISTICS FOR THE 32ND
WEEK OF 1978 ARE OUTLINED BELOW. FIGURES IN PARENTHESIS RE-
FLECT CUMULATIVE TOTALS SINCE DECEMBER 1977.

ERADICATION, AUGUST 7-13, 1978

	ZONES 5-9	3-4	1-2	OTHER	TOTALS
A. POPPY FIELDS	5	0	35	0	40 (15,702)
B. HECTARES	.637	0	.35	0	.987 (1,264)
C. MARIHUANA FLDS	44	9	259	1	313 (4,797)
D. HECTARES	1.819	.09	25.4765	.08	27.4655 (605)
E. MIXED FIELDS	0	0	0	0	0 (113)
F. HECTARES	0	0	0	0	0 (18)

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ENFORCEMENT, AUGUST 7-13, 1978

	-	-	THIS PERIOD	CUMULATIVE
A. KG. HEROIN	-	-	.239	88.72
B. KG. OPIUM	-	-	1	299.485

C. KG. OPIUM SEED	-	.400	98.09
D. HEROIN LABS	-	-	1 16
E. HASHISH/MARIHUANA LABS	-	0	2
F. DANGEROUS DRUG LABS	-	0	3
G. KG. COCAINE	-	-	2.359 52.64
H. KG. MARIHUANA	-	5,783.572	423,427
I. KG. MARIHUANA SEED	-	5	1,793.73
J. KG. HASHISH	-	-	0 63.875
K. LITERS HASHISH OIL	-	0	.250
L. KG. PEYOTE	-	-	0 22.02
M. D.U. DANGEROUS DRUGS		482,254	21,328,602
N. DANGEROUS DRUG TABLET			
MACHINES	-	-	0 3
O. ARRESTS, MEXICAN	-	85	3,149
P. ARRESTS, U.S.	-	-	1 105
Q. ARRESTS, OTHER	-	-	1 34
R. VEHICLES	-	-	11 485
S. WEAPONS	-	-	37 997
T. AMMUNITION	-	-	294 39,126
U. PESOS	-	-	\$3,000 \$3,217,288
V. DOLLARS	-	-	0 75,432
W. AIRCRAFT	-	-	0 31
X. VESSELS	-	-	0 3

2. ERADICATION STATISTICS FOR THE 32ND WEEK OF 1978 COMPARED WITH THOSE FOR THE SAME PERIOD IN 1977 SHOW 40 POPPY LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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FIELDS COVERING .987 HECTARES DESTROYED IN 1978 AS COMPARED TO 195 POPPY FIELDS COVERING 5.565 HECTARES DESTROYED DURING 1977. FIGURES FOR 1978 SHOW AN APPROXIMATE 80 PERCENT REDUCTION IN THE NUMBER OF FIELDS DESTROYED AND AN APPROXIMATE 82 PERCENT DECREASE IN THE NUMBER OF HECTARES DESTROYED COMPARED TO 1977 FIGURES. THE MAJORITY OF POPPY ERADICATION ACTIVITY TOOK PLACE IN ZONE II, CHILPANCINGO, GUERRERO, DURING BOTH 1977 AND 1978.

3. FIELD OPERATIONS:

A) ZONE 01: OAXACA: MITRE TEAM GROUP MCNAMARA AND TINDALL VISITED THE TACTICAL AREA ACCOMPANIED BY GOM-PROVIDED ESCORT OFFICERS TO CONDUCT PERSONAL INSPECTION OF THE SPRAYING OPERATIONS. DURING THE INITIAL MEETING WITH ATTORNEY GENERAL FLORES HE STIPULATED THEY WOULD HAVE ACCESS TO ANY AND ALL FACETS OF THE CAMPAIGN WITH TOTAL FREEDOM TO ASK QUESTIONS OR REQUEST ADDITIONAL INFORMATION WHENEVER THEY HAD DOUBTS. DURING THE PRE-DEPARTURE BRIEFING CONDUCTED BY THE MITRE GROUP FOR BAEZA AND HIS SENIOR STAFF ON FRIDAY, 18 AUGUST, 1978, THE VISITING TECHNICIANS AGREED THEY HAD NOT OBSERVED ANY SIGNIFICANT ENVIRONMENTAL

IMPACT PROBLEMS IN THE AREAS VISITED BASED ON THEIR VISUAL INSPECTIONS. THE MITRE GROUP DEPARTED MEXICO CITY ON SUNDAY 18 AUGUST FOR WASHINGTON.

B) ZONE 02: CHILPANCINGO: COORDINATOR ORDONEZ RASCON NOTIFIED EMBASSY OFFICER HIS RECORDS REVEAL THEY DESTROYED 99 POPPY FIELDS IN JULY AS OPPOSED TO 390 IN JULY OF 1977. HE ATTRIBUTES THE SIGNIFICANT DECREASE TO THE WEATHER CONDITIONS WHICH PREVAILED DURING THE PLANTING SEASON AND AN OBVIOUS RELUCTANCE BY THE CAMPESINOS TO PLANT POPPIES IN OPEN AREAS. THEY ARE DETECTING SMALLER FIELDS WITH A CERTAIN AMOUNT OF CONCEALMENT TO AVOID BOTH DETECTION AND

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OMB-01 AGRE-00 AID-05 NASA-01 /075 W
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P 222350Z AUG 78
FM AMEMBASSY MEXICO
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SPRAYING. ORDONEZ LOOKS FORWARD TO THE ARRIVAL OF THE JOINT EVALUATION TEAM WHICH IS DUE IN HIS AREA BY END OF AUGUST. ACTIVITY IN ZONE 02 HAS BEEN CONFINED TO SECTOR 252 (LOS ORGANOS), SECTOR 253 (TETELA DE RIO), AND SECTOR 258 (FILO DE CABALLO). THESE ARE TRADITIONAL GROWING AREAS.

C) ZONE 06: CULIACAN: THE MITRE GROUP (CARDENAS AND HOFFMAN) ESCORTED BY GOM-PROVIDED TECHNICIANS VISITED THE CENTRAL BASE IN CULIACAN AND THE TACTICAL AREAS AS PART OF THEIR STUDY REQUIREMENT ESSENTIAL FOR THE ENVIRONMENTAL ANALYSIS. DURING THEIR PRE-DEPARTURE BRIEFING FOR AG FLORES, HOFFMAN EMPHASIZED HIS VERY FAVORABLE IMPRESSIONS RELATIVE TO THE ORGANIZATION OF THE CAMPAIGN IN GENERAL WITH

PARTICULAR EMPHASIS ON THE OUTSTANDING FLYING ABILITY OF THE SPRAY PILOTS WHO FLEW AT LOW ALTITUDES, AND SPRAYED THE TARGETS WITH A HIGH DEGREE OF ACCURACY WITH A MINIMUM OF DRIFT TO THE SURROUNDING VEGETATION.

D) ZONE 07: CHIHUAHUA: THE JOINT EVALUATION TEAM FLEW LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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RECONNAISSANCE MISSIONS IN THE HIDALGO DEL PARRAL AREA IN SECTORS 77, 88, 92, 104, 105, 107, 108, 109, 110, 111 AND 127, FOR A TOTAL COVERAGE OF ELEVEN SECTORS. THE ONLY IL-LICIT FIELDS DETECTED CONSISTED OF 22 MARIHUANA CROPS WHICH WERE SPRAYED BY LOW-LEVEL ALTITUDE TASK FORCE. THE TEAM IS NOW MOVING TO SALTILLO AREA BUT DOES NOT ANTICIPATE ANY SURPRISES BASED ON DETECTION THUS FAR. BOTH INCLEMENT WEATHER AND MAINTENANCE PROBLEMS HAVE CAUSED A LOSS OF APPROXIMATELY FIVE DAYS; HOWEVER, TEAM EXPECTS TO BE IN THE ZONE 02 AREA (GUERRERO) DURING WEEK OF AUGUST 21 AND WIND UP IN ZONE 06 BY END OF AUGUST.

NOTE: DURING THE NASA MEETINGS WHICH OCCURRED DURING THE REPORTING PERIOD, EARTH RESOURCES LABORATORY (ERL) DIRECTOR MOONEYHAN EXPLORED THE POSSIBILITY RELATIVE TO THE JOINT EVALUATION TEAM CONDUCTING SOME VERIFICATION ON THE INTERIM SYSTEM FINDINGS PERIODICALLY TO ESTABLISH AUTHENTIC BENCHMARKS. EMBASSY OFFICERS JUDGE BAEZA WILL AGREE TO THIS AND MESH THIS REQUIREMENT WITH THE EVALUATION MISSION DURING THE MONTH OF NOVEMBER.

4. TECHNICAL SUPPORT:

A) FLIGHT OPERATIONS: THE ASSISTANCE ATTACHE HAS STRESSED TO BAEZA THE NEED TO INCULCATE A CONCEPT OF DISCIPLINE, SUPERVISION, AND TRAINING AT ALL LEVELS IN HIS ORGANIZATION TO MINIMIZE PERSONNEL PROBLEMS. THE NAU ADVISORY STAFF IS ALSO CONDITIONING THEIR COUNTERPARTS IN THEIR DAY-TO-DAY CONTACTS. DURING THE REPORTING PERIOD, A MUCH NEEDED 150 PAGE OPERATIONS MANUAL WAS COMPLETED AND SUBMITTED TO BAEZA FOR HIS REVIEW AND APPROVAL. THIS ACCOMPLISHMENT SHOULD NOW ESTABLISH THE GROUNDWORK FOR AN AWARENESS ON THE PART OF ALL PILOTS AND FLIGHT CREWS OF LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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THEIR OBLIGATIONS COVERED BY REGULATIONS AND THE PENALTIES FOR FAILING TO COMPLY.

B) FLIGHT TRAINING: EXECUTIVE OFFICER BAEZA SIGNED A CONTRACT WITH DOSS AVIATION ON AUGUST 18, 1978, TO CONTRACT TWO BILINGUAL ROTARY WING INSTRUCTOR PILOTS FOR A TOTAL PERIOD OF 90 DAYS IN ORDER TO FREE AERO SERVICES PILOTS TO PERFORM OPERATIONAL MISSIONS. THE 90 DAYS WILL NOT BE CONSECUTIVE IN ORDER TO HAVE SUFFICIENT FLEXIBILITY TO MEET THE REQUIREMENTS AND ALLOW FOR UNEXPECTED CONTINGENCIES.

C) MAINTENANCE:

1. MODEL 212 HELICOPTER (XC-BET) UNDER REPAIR FOR EXTENSIVE CRASH DAMAGE IN RAMAPO IS DESCRIBED TO BE FULLY ASSEMBLED AND PRESENTLY IN THE PAINTING STAGE. THE PURCHASE ORDER COVERING THIS REPAIR IS THE ONLY TRANSACTION REMAINING UNDER THE BELL HELICOPTER TEXTRON (BHT) CONTRACT. EMBASSY UNDERSTANDS BHT SUBMITTED ADDITIONAL INVOICE AMOUNTING TO DOLLARS 235,000 TO COVER THE COST OVER-RUN.

2. CRASH DAMAGED CESSNA 206 (XC-CAX) RETURNED TO AERO SERVICES ON 16 AUGUST NOW OPERATIONALLY AVAILABLE. THIS FIXED WING AIRCRAFT SUFFERED CRASH DAMAGE UPON TAKEOFF FROM PACHUCA AIRSTRIP DURING THE NATIONAL RECON PLAN THIS PAST FEBRUARY. INSURANCE COVERAGE CLAIM OFFSET THE MAJOR PORTION OF THE REPAIR COSTS.

3. E-SYSTEMS: THE THREE ON-CALL PERSONNEL SUPPLY SPECIALISTS ASSIGNED TO CULIACAN HAVE NOW BEEN REDUCED TO TWO AS THE AG OFFICE HIRED THREE LOCAL TECHNICIANS WHO ARE NOW IN PROCESS OF BEING TRAINED BY THE CONTRACTOR.

4. MAINTENANCE TRAILERS: DRAWINGS RELATED TO THE MODIFICATIONS FOR THE FORMER MOPSS TRAILERS WERE COMPLETED LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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AND SUBMITTED FOR APPROVAL. ESSENTIALLY, THE MODS WILL TAKE PLACE IN TWO SEPARATE STAGES WHICH CONSIST OF MODIFICATIONS TO TRAILERS AND SUBSEQUENTLY, THE OUTER SHELTER/WORK AREA WHICH WILL INCLUDE A HOIST. THE COSTS WILL BE FUNDED FROM THE FIELD SUPPORT AGREEMENT ALLOTMENT.

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OMB-01 AGRE-00 AID-05 NASA-01 /075 W
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P 222350Z AUG 78
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(D) TELECOMMUNICATIONS: TELECOM TECHNICIAN CARPENTER TRAVELED TO CULIACAN WITH AG OFFICE PROJECT OFFICER TO INSPECT AND SELECT A SITE FOR THE ERECTION OF TRANSMITTING TOWER TO CONDUCT THE PROPAGATION TESTS WITH THE OFFSHORE NAVIGATIONAL, INC. (ONI) EQUIPMENT. THE BEST SITE IS ADJACENT TO THE AG HANGAR AT THE CULIACAN AIRPORT. FYI: AG OFFICE IN PROCESS OF NEGOTIATING A CONTRACT WITH ONI REPRESENTATIVE TO COVER THE FEASIBILITY STUDY ONLY.

5. SIGNIFICANT TRENDS: WHILE STILL SOMEWHAT PREMATURE TO REACH A CONCLUSIVE JUDGMENT ON THE GENERAL SITUATION IN THE TRADITIONAL POPPY GROWING AREAS, THERE ARE INDICATORS WHICH ARE CAUTIOUSLY OPTIMISTIC. THE JOINT EVALUATION TEAM INFORMED EMBASSY THAT SECTORS 101, 102, AND 104 WHICH TWO YEARS AGO WERE COVERED WITH POPPY FIELDS, ARE EITHER UNDER EDIBLE CROP CULTIVATION OR NOT BEING UTILIZED. THE TEAM LANDED IN SOME OF THESE AREAS AND FOUND CORN, BEANS, PEPPERS, AND OTHER SUSTENANCE CROPS.

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6. MARIJUANA PRODUCTION: EMBASSY NOTED WITH GREAT INTEREST ITEM IN WEEKLY NARCOTICS INTELLIGENCE DIGEST FOR WEEK ENDING AUGUST 18 (DEA 23235) THAT AS MUCH AS 70,000 HECTARES OF MARIJUANA MAY BE UNDER CULTIVATION IN THE GUAJIRA OF COLOMBIA. BY CONTRACT, IN THE TWELVE MONTHS ENDING 30 NOVEMBER 1977, THE GOM LOCATED AND DESTROYED ONLY 3,885 HECTARES OF MARIJUANA. AS NOTED IN PARA ONE ABOVE, THUS FAR THIS YEAR GOM HAS LOCATED AND DESTROYED ONLY 605 HECTARES OF MARIJUANA. ASSUMING SOME ERROR IN

BOTH DATA SETS, IT WOULD APPEAR THAT COLOMBIAN MARIJUANA
PRODUCTION NOW EXCEEDS MEXICAN PRODUCTION BY A RATIO
OF ALMOST 100 TO ONE. MCANINCH

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: CROP DESTRUCTION, DRUG CONTROL, REPORTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 21 aug 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978MEXICO13734
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780342-0024
Format: TEL
From: MEXICO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780843/aaaabjdr.tel
Line Count: 335
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 8bd65160-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 7
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 21 jul 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1678373
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: GOM ERADICATION AND ENFORCEMENT ACTIVITY REPORT, AUGUST 7-13, 1978, AND FIELD OPERATIONS THROUGH 08/18/78
TAGS: SNAR, MX
To: STATE DEA
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/8bd65160-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014